Information. regarding the transportation cost component of the handling charges pad to handling agencies in respect of the qualities of imported urea moved to these states from different ports has not been segregated.

Guidelines Regarding Appointment of Distributors/Dealers for Fertilisers

4128. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any guidelines regarding appointment of distributors/ dealers for fertilisers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DTR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) The fertiliser, manufacturing Central Public Sector Companies (CPSUs)/Cooperatives have been appointing dealers/distributors by following the criteria and procedures laid down by them. The Government had, however, in September 78 issued instructions to CPSUs that they would reserve 25% of all future appointment of dealers for fertilisers for Scheduled Casts (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Proposal to Scrap the Pricing Regime For Fertilizer

4129. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to scrap the cosy, cost-plus retention pricing regime for the fertilizer producers and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when it is proposed to be scrapped and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee in regard To an alternative scheme for subsidisation of urea are under the consideration of the Government.

Revaluation of vendor selection process of Indo-Oman Project

4130. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item "Indo-Oman rejects UHDE's lower offer" published in the "Financial Express" dated the 22nd June, 1998;

(b) if yes, Governr^ent's reaction thereto;

(c) whether a number of Members of Parliament have written to the Minister seeking re-evaluation of the vendor selection process for the Indo-Oman fertilizer project; and

(d) the reason for ignoring the demand for re-evaluation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) All operational decisions regarding the Oman India Fertilizer Project (OIFP), in which RCF and KRIBHCO together and Oman Oil Company are equal partners, have been taken by the Joint Management Committee (JMC) of the project, which had equal representation from the Indian and Omani sides. The JMC has been replaced by the Board of Directors since incorporation of the Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO) in February, 1998. The board of OMIFCO has not considered it appropiiate to entertain the revised offer after the finalisation of the exercise of bid evaluation and notification of the preferred bidder.